AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~32, wherein the first bus is a measuring bus or a serial interface.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~32, wherein the second bus is an intranet over which the ~~at least one~~ control computers ~~is~~ are coupled with the central computer.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~32, wherein the inter-regional network is the Internet.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~32, wherein the storage-medium reading device is a CD-ROM reading device.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~32, further comprising:

determining for which type of a measuring instrument the program code is intended based on a target address contained in the program code.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~32, further comprising:

providing coupling information of each of the plurality of measuring instruments coupled to the ~~at least one~~ control computers to a memory of the central computer; and

wherein in the step of transmitting the program code from the central computer to ~~the~~ at

least one <u>of the</u> control computer<u>s</u>, transmitting the program code based on a targeting

information in the program code and the coupling information in the memory of the central

computer.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~<u>32</u>, further comprising:

transmitting from the ~~at least one~~ control computer<u>s</u> to the central computer types of

measuring instruments coupled to the ~~at least one~~ control computer<u>s</u>.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system for distributing a program update, comprising:

a central computer configured to receive the program update;

a plurality of control computers connected to the central computer<u>, the plurality of control</u>

<u>computers including a first control computer</u>; and

a plurality of instruments, wherein

each instrument is coupled to only one of the plurality of control computers,

<u>the first control computer is coupled to at least two different instruments,</u>

the central computer is configured to transfer the program update to <u>at least one of the</u>

<u>control computers including the first computer</u>~~one or more of the plurality of control computers~~,

and

~~each of the plurality of control computers~~<u>the first computer</u>, upon receipt of the program

update, is configured to transfer the program update to ~~one or more of the instruments coupled to~~

~~the control computer~~ <u>one of the at least two different instruments coupled to the first control</u>

computer without transferring the program update to another one of the at least two different

instruments.

11.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the central computer is

configured to receive the program update through a memory media or through a network.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein each instrument includes a

local memory and the each of the plurality of control computers is configured to download the

program update to the local memory of one or more of the instruments.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein

the program update is intended for an instrument identical to the one of the at least two

different instrumentsa particular type of an instrument, and

the central computer is configured to transfer the program update only to those control

computers to which the intended type of instrument identical to the one of the at least two

different measuring instruments is coupled.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the central computer

maintains information regarding instrument type and coupling of each of the plurality of

instruments to the plurality of control computers.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of the control computers is configured to provide the central computer with information regarding instruments coupled the control computer.

16.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the central computer is configured to determine the <u>instrument identical to the one of the at least two different instruments</u>intended type of instrument for the program update based on an addressing information included in the program update.

17-22. (Cancelled)

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1<u>32</u>, further comprising executing the program code through the measuring instrument.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the program update is intended for execution by an updated instrument.

25-26. (Cancelled)

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1<u>32</u>, further comprising transmitting the program code from the at least one<u>first</u> control computer to another measuring instrument

coupled to the at least onefirst control computer, the another measuring instrument being identical to the one of the at least two different measuring instruments.

28-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a program code to a plurality of measuring instruments, each measuring instrument being respectively coupled to only one of at least one control computers via a respective first bus, with each of the at least one control computers being coupled to a central computer via a second bus, the central computer being coupled with at least one of a storage-medium reading device and an inter-regional network, a first control computer of the control computers being coupled to at least two different measuring instruments, said method comprising:

supplying the program code to the central computer by at least one of placing a storage medium on which the program code is stored in the storage-medium reading device and transmitting the program code to the central computer via the inter-regional network;

transmitting the program code from the central computer via the second bus to at least one of the control computersthe at least one control computer including the first computer;

transmitting the program code from the at least onefirst control computer to one of the at least two different measuring instruments a measuring instrument coupled to the at least onefirst control computer without transmitting the program code from the at least one of the control computers to another one of the at least two different measuring instruments; and

updating a measuring routine of a firmware of the <u>one of the at least two different</u> measuring instrument<u>s</u> coupled to the ~~at least one~~<u>first</u> control computer.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein a second control computer of the control computers is coupled to at least one of the plurality of measuring instruments, the at least one of the plurality of measuring instruments being non-identical to the one of the at least two different measuring instruments, the step of transmitting the program code from the central computer to at least one of the control computers including transmitting the program code from the central computer to the first control computer without transmitting the program code to the second control computer.

34.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the control computers includes a second computer coupled to at least one of the plurality of instruments, the at least one of the plurality of instruments being non-identical to the one of the at least two different instruments, the central computer being configured to not transfer the program update to the second control computer.